

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00

NSCE-00 NSAE-00 L-01 SP-02 PC-01 AID-05 EB-04

TRSE-00 OMB-01 OES-02 /040 W

-----032499 102109Z /45

O R 101445Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6508

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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LIMDIS

DEPT PASS PC/W AND AID/W

NAIROBI FOR REDSO/EA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIJ, RW, US

SUBJECT: FISH CULTURE AND PEACE CORPS: FROM BAD TO WORSE

REF: KIGALI 1277, 1278, 1279; STATE 199769 AND 200871 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: GOR HAS SENT US COUNTER-PROPOSAL ON FISH CULTURE CALLING FOR TWENTY-FIVE TIMES MORE FUNDING AND MAKING CLEAR PEACE CORPS COMPONENT IS NOT RPT NOT DESIRED. AID/ KIGALI PROPOSES TO RESPOND WITH BID FOR "EXPERIMENTAL" PHASE UTILIZING \$150,000 IN FUNDS ALREADY PROGRAMMED (AND EXCLUDING VOLS), AS POSSIBLE STEP TOWARD MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECT IN FISH CULTURE FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD. PC/KIGALI MEANWHILE CONCLUDES THAT PROSPECTS FOR OTHER PC ACTIVITIES HERE ARE BLEAK, AND PCD IS REQUESTING CONSULTATION. I INTEND TO WRITE TO GOR STATING MY "DISAPPOINTMENT" OVER TURN OF EVENTS AND TRYING AGAIN TO EXPLAIN WHAT PC IS ALL ABOUT.

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END SUMMARY.

1. HARD UPON CONVERSATIONS REPORTED KIGALI REFTELS, EMBASSY YESTERDAY RECEIVED FONMIN NOTE CONTAINING FISH CULTURE COUNTER-PROPOSAL OF SORTS. AFTER THANKING EMBASSY PROFUSELY FOR ITS ORIGINAL FISH CULTURE PROPOSAL AND ITS LARGER EFFORTS IN BEHALF OF US-RWANDAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERA-

TION, NOTE STATES GOR HAS JUST FINISHED DESIGNING ITS OWN NATIONWIDE FISH CULTURE PROGRAM WHICH CONSISTS OF BUILDING AND EQUIPPING 100 COMMUNAL FISH PROPAGATION CENTERS AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF ABOUT \$3.9 MILLION. NOTE ADDS THAT MINAGRI PLANS TO ASSIGN TRAINED RWANDAN PERSONNEL TO OPERATE THESE CENTERS.

2. GOR NOTE THEN SETS FORTH ITS PROBLEMS WITH PEACE CORPS/AID PROPOSAL:

--INSUFFICIENT FUNDING (\$150,000 COMPARED TO \$3.9 MILLION);

--FUNDS USED MOSTLY TO HOUSE AND SUPPORT "TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE" PERSONNEL;

--RELATIVELY LARGE GOR CONTRIBUTION (\$75,000);

-- ASSIGNMENT OF "DISPROPORTIONATE" NUMBER OF PCV'S (\$150,000 DIVIDED BY 12 VOLS MEANS EACH VOL CARRIES OUT PROGRAM AVERAGING ONLY \$12,500);

-- VOLUNTEER ROLES NOT PRECISELY DEFINED (FEASIBILITY STUDY NEED TO DETERMINE HOW THEY WILL USE THEIR TIME).

3. NOTE CONTINUES: "MINISTRY WISHES TO ASSURE EMBASSY THAT MINAGRI HAS PROVIDED FOR RWANDAN TECHNICIANS SUFFICIENT TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSURE PROJECT'S EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION, AND THAT IT HAS NEED FOR TWO OR THREE FISH CULTURE EXPERTS FOR PLANNING, SUPERVISION, AND COORDINATION. THUS, ASSIGNMENT OF SUCH A LARGE NUMBER OF PCV'S UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES DOES NOT SEEM ADVISABLE."

4. MINISTRY THEREFORE ASKS THAT EMBASSY REEXAMINE ITS PROPOSED AGREEMENT TO SEE WHETHER IT CANNOT IMPROVE BOTH VOLUME AND QUALITY OF ITS PROFFERED ASSISTANCE, AND IT STATES THAT MINISTRY IS PREPARED TO MEET WITH EMB REPS TO WORK OUT A FISH CULTURE PROJECT "MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH GOVTS AND CAPABLE OF CONTRIBUTING TO IMPROVEMENT OF NUTRITION AMONG RWANDAN PEOPLES AND STRENGTHENING RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND RWANDA."

5. COMMENT: GOR COUNTER-PROPOSAL EFFECTIVELY CLOSES DOOR ON PEACE CORPS' FISH CULTURE PROJECT AND INVITES US INSTEAD TO SUBSTITUTE A CAPITAL-INTENSIVE, BUILD-AND-EQUIP PROGRAM WITH A MUCH HIGHER PRICE TAG. ASSERTING THAT GOR ITSELF IS CAPABLE OF MOUNTING EXTENSION PROGRAM WHICH WE CONSIDER PRIMORDIAL TO SUCCESSFUL FISH CULTURE, GOR PROPOSAL LEAVES NO APPROPRIATE ROLE FOR PCV'S WHEATEVER (NOTE LEAVES US OPTION OF DISGUIISING 2 OR 3 PCV'S

AS TECHNICAL EXPERTS AND GIVING THEM MANAGERIAL JOBS
WITHIN ENGLARGED PROJECT).

6. IT IS CHARACTERISTICALLY RWANDAN TO CONVEY BAD NEWS
OR REVEAL TRUE FEELINGS ONLY STEP-BY-STEP. WE HAVE NOW
MOVED STEPWISE FROM PRESIDENT'S "DOUBTS" ABOUT SO MANY
VOLS TO THEIR EFFECTIVE EXCLUSION FROM PROJECT WHICH PEACE
CORPS ITSELF ORIGINATED. UNFORTUNATELY, I BELIEVE
WE ARE BEING TOLD LITTLE BY LITTLE THAT RWANDA REALLY
ISN'T INTERESTED IN PEACE CORPS: THEY WILL NOT "REFUSE,"
AS THEY SAY, A REASONABLE NUMBER OF VOLS AS PART OF
LARGER PROJECTS, BUT THEY SEEM INCREASINGLY UNLIKELY TO
"REQUEST" ANY VOLS ON TERMS SATISFACTORY TO PC.

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7. PCD STERNIN IS FORMULATING HIS OWN RATHER GLOOMY
ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE OF PC/RWANDA IN
LIGHT OF THESE DISAPPOINTING EVENTS, AND I SHALL ALSO
TRANSMIT COMMENTS OF MY OWN. STERNIN WILL REQUEST CONSULTATION
WITH PC/W WHICH I CERTAINLY ENDORSE.

8. FOR NOW, OUR PROBLEM IS HOW TO RESPOND TO RWANDANS'
RECASE FISH CULTURE PROJECT. AAO PATTERSON HAS INDICATED
WILLINGNESS TO MEET WITH GOR AND SEE WHETHER "EXPERIMENTAL" PROJECT
EXCLUDING VOLS CAN BE WORKED OUT TO
UTILIZE \$150,000 NOW AVAILABLE. IF RWANDANS AGREE AND
SUBSEQUENT EVALUATIONS SHOW EXPERIMENT TO HAVE BEEN
SUCCESSFUL, IT COULD LEAD TO LARGER NATIONAL PROJECT
CLOSER TO THAT PROPOSED BY GOR. IN LIGHT OF RWANDAN
INSISTANCE UPON OBTAINING FULL USG COMMITMENT NOW TO
UNDERTAKE PROJECT OF THIS MAGNITUDE, AND GIVEN VERY
NARROW TIMEFRAME IN WHICH TO AGREE ON EXPERIMENTAL
PROJECT, I AM NOT OPTIMISTIC AS TO OUR CHANCES FOR
SUCCESS. BUT WE SHALL TRY.

9. MEANWHILE, I HAVE DRAFTED LETTER WHICH I PROPOSE
SENDING TO SECGEN RENZAHU (ACTING FONMIN WHILE NSEKALIJE
IS ON VACATION), COPY TO PRESIDENCY, SETTING FORTH IN
SOME DETAIL MY DISAPPOINTMENT AT GOR REJECTION OF PEACE
CORPS PROPOSAL ALONG WITH NEGATIVE REMARKS HE AND OTHERS
HAVE VOICED RE PC'S POTENTIAL ROLE HERE. QUITE SIMILAR
TO SUGGESTIONS STATE 200871, LETTER SETS FORTH PEACE
CORPS "PHILOSOPHY AND STYLE" AS WELL AS MY OWN (UNDIMINISHED)
CONVICTION THAT VOLS COULD MAKE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION
HERE IN CONTEXT OF UMUGANDA AND NATIONAL SELF-HELP
EFFORTS. I SHALL ALSO HAVE TO ADD THAT GOR'S DECISION
NOT RPT NOT TO AVAIL ITSELF OF PEACE CORPS HELP
WILL BE DISAPPOINTING TO OTHERS IN WASHINGTON FAVORABLY
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DISPOSED TOWARD GREATER DEVELOPMENTAL COOPERATION WITH
RWANDA. (I BELIEVE I SHOULD LET LARGER
QUESTIONS OF US ASSISTANCE WAIT UNTIL WE CLEAR THE
AIR OVER PEACE CORPS.)
CRIGLER

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